

Thomas Alva Edison, and wish them the best on this historic anniversary.

HONORING JAN VERHAGE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jan Verhage for her outstanding service as Executive Director of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital for the past 25 years. For a quarter century, Jan has dedicated her life to building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. Many of our daughters and granddaughters who live here in the Washington area benefit directly from the amazing, innovative and outstanding programs organized under Jan's purview.

Under her guidance and leadership, the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital has experienced unprecedented growth, including a membership that has tripled in size. Today, the council serves 90,000 members in the District of Columbia and 25 surrounding counties in Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. During Ms. Verhage's tenure as Executive Director, more than 2,700 girls earned the Gold Award, the Girl Scouts' highest honor, earned for developing a sustainable community service project.

Jan has also been instrumental in reaching out to underserved communities, by targeting girls of different racial, ethnic, or language backgrounds and by providing financial assistance to girls from low-income families, in order to deliver Girl Scouting to all girls. Her innovative initiatives include training college students to lead troops in at-risk communities; a road safety program for teen girls; and programs that address critical issues such as self-esteem, healthy living, financial literacy and peer pressure.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Jan Verhage for 25 years of dedicated service to girls in the Greater Washington Region. I wish her the best in her future as Chief Operating Officer of Girl Scouts of the USA.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL
PATRICK FINNEGAN

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today not only as the Representative of the 8th District of Georgia, but also as the Chairman of the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy at West Point, to honor the service and accomplishments of Brigadier General Patrick Finnegan.

General Finnegan distinguished himself through exceptionally meritorious service to the Nation during more than thirty-nine years of active military service in peace and war, culminating in six years as a professor at

West Point, and serving the last five years as the Dean of the Academic Board. During General Finnegan's tenure, Forbes Magazine rated West Point as the best college in America.

As Dean, General Finnegan envisioned and fostered an Academic Program relevant to the needs of the Army that contributes to the intellectual and professional development of cadets. His visionary leadership led to the transition and expansion of the Academy's foreign language program, which places a greater emphasis on global and cultural awareness and includes a robust Study Abroad Program.

Madam Speaker, the Academic Program at the United States Military Academy has never been stronger, more connected to the Army, or more revered by our Nation. During his tenure, General Finnegan sponsored several successful accreditation visits from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, ABET, and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, MSCHE. West Point was also named the #1 Public College in the Nation by Forbes Magazine and best Public Liberal Arts College by the Princeton Review. Moreover, USMA cadets have won 84 international scholarships during this period, and West Point leads the nation in terms of Rotary International Scholarship winners.

Fondly referred to by cadets as the "People's Dean," General Finnegan's focus on cadets and enrichment opportunities was never limited to the Academic Program. He was an avid and faithful supporter of cadet sports programs and the Dean's teams, and his personal participation in community and post-level events was unprecedented.

Madam Speaker, General Finnegan's record of achievement and manner of service in positions of enormous responsibility epitomize the type of soldier for whom an award such as the Distinguished Service Medal is intended. He has discharged his duty with immeasurable skill, diplomacy, and humility, while his dedication to excellence and devotion to duty, honor, and country is unparalleled.

On behalf of the Board of Visitors, I thank General Finnegan for his service to West Point.

TRIBUTE TO THE LEOMINSTER COLONIAL BAND ON THE OCCASION OF ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Leominster Colonial Band for its 100 years of active involvement in the Leominster community.

The Leominster Colonial Band started as a group of Italian immigrant musicians gathering together and soon became an institution in Leominster. The band was founded by Gaspare Bisceglia, a 16-year-old apprentice bandmaster, who immigrated to Leominster from San Giovanni, Italy. The band gave its first concert on the Leominster common on August 16, 1910.

Known originally as the "Banda Regione d'Italia," the band has undergone several name changes as its role in the city evolved and its membership diversified. It became the "Italian Colonial Band," and later the "Leominster Colonial Band."

The history of the Leominster Colonial Band is interwoven with the history of Leominster. Over the years, the band has played at numerous civic events and parades. The band performed in celebrations at the end of World War I and led Leominster's welcoming parade when American troops returned from World War II. The band also played at the dedication of Leominster's Spanish-American War monument.

During the Great Depression, Gaspare Bisceglia established a free summer concert series on the downtown common. This tradition has continued over the years and the band now performs five free concerts every year at Leominster's historic Carter Park. The band plays an annual Christmas concert and regularly plays at Italian feasts in Leominster, Boston and throughout Massachusetts. It frequently participates in church celebrations in the Worcester and Greater Boston areas and plays in processions for weddings and funerals.

In 2006, the Leominster Colonial Band received the "Citizen of the Year" award from the Center for Italian Culture at Fitchburg State College, in recognition of its contributions and dedication to Italian culture. In the spring of 2010, the band will be honored with the City of Leominster's "Citizen of the Year" award.

I am very proud to represent the town of Leominster, which is rich in history and public spirit. The members of the Leominster Colonial Band demonstrate a spirit of community involvement, a dedication to upholding Italian cultural traditions, and a commitment to performing quality band music. Please join me in congratulating the Leominster Colonial Band as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

MATTHEW DEANDA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Matthew Deanda who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Matthew Deanda is a 12th grader at Pamona High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Matthew Deanda is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Matthew Deanda for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.